

Twins slugger expresses regret for his role in 2017 Astros' sign-stealing scandal

SPORTS, 1B



University of St. Thomas contends with flood, then power outage in one night

LOCAL, 3A

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N.H. culls Democratic field

Klobuchar 3rd behind Sanders, Buttigieg, bests Biden and Warren

By Mark Z. Barabak
Los Angeles Times

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Bernie Sanders eked out a narrow victory Tuesday in the New Hampshire primary, besting a pair of more

moderate Midwestern rivals who together outpolled the champion of progressive Democrats on his New England home turf. Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., finished just a few thousand votes shy of the sen-

ator from neighboring Vermont and ahead of Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, whose strong showing was the biggest surprise of the night. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Vice Presi-

dent Joe Biden were in single digits in fourth and fifth place, respectively, a weak showing that imperiled both their campaigns. Each vowed to fight on. Well before the votes were counted, businessman Andrew Yang and Colorado Sen. Michael

N.H. PRIMARY, 7A

St. Paul teachers set strike vote date

Educators will vote Feb. 20, could walk out in early March

By Josh Verges
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St. Paul teachers will vote next week whether to strike as contract talks drag on. The executive board for the St. Paul Federation of Educators on Monday set the vote for Feb. 20. “We did not make this decision lightly, but we are certain that a strike vote is necessary if we hope to reach a settlement with the district that respects our students’ needs and honors our educators’ voices,” the union said in a statement. “After nearly a year of negotiating, the District still isn’t taking our student-centered proposals seriously and has refused to have any real discussion around educator pay and benefits.” The union, which represents teachers, educational assistants and school and community service professionals, also voted to strike two years ago but negotiators struck a deal with one day to spare. The union’s top proposal is for mental health teams at every school. Other priorities are around support for special education and multilingual students and a long-term commitment to restorative practices in order to improve school climate. They’ve also proposed salary schedule increases of 3.4 percent and 2 percent for teachers over the two-year deal. “We are not close to an agreement,” bargaining team member Rene Myers said in a video message

STRIKE VOTE, 4A

Should state change its flag?



PHOTOS BY SCOTT TAKUSHI / PIONEER PRESS
House Speaker Melissa Hortman, DFL-Brooklyn Park, prepares to begin the 2020 legislative session at the state Capitol in St. Paul on Tuesday. A proposal that could lead to a new state flag was among those that Democrats brought forward. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on or before May 18.

Proposal is part of first day of 2020 session

By Dave Orrick
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There are 67 circles, 19 stars, at least six colors, three dates, a bunch of flowers, one French phrase, and between three and seven pine trees, depending who you ask. As far as flags go, Minnesota’s state flag ... has a lot going on. It’s a branding nightmare, critics say. And then there’s the naked Indian, spear in hand, riding bareback on a horse toward the setting sun, under the gaze of a white farmer plowing his field, his rifle and powderhorn within reach. Some say that’s downright offensive, a diminution and glorification of a history that we now see differently

On Page 10A: The Legislature is off to a quick start on bonding and emergency insulin proposals.

than we did around 1858, when Minnesota and the nation waged war on Native Americans, and when the image was adopted as the state seal. Some lawmakers say it’s high time to do away with it. On Tuesday, the first day of the 2020 Minnesota legislative session in St. Paul, a proposal that could lead to a new state flag was among those that Democrats brought forward. No, they clarify, it’s not their

LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 10A



Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, R-Nisswa, shakes hands with new Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent, DFL-Woodbury.

Federal prosecutors withdraw from Stone case

Justice Dept. revises earlier sentencing recommendation

By Katie Benner, Sharon LaFraniere and Adam Goldman
New York Times

WASHINGTON — Four prosecutors abruptly withdrew Tuesday



Roger Stone

from the case of Roger Stone, President Donald Trump’s longtime friend, after senior Justice Department officials intervened to recommend a more lenient sentence for crimes he committed in a bid to protect the president. In an extraordinary decision

overruling career lawyers, the Justice Department recommended an unspecified term of incarceration for Stone instead of the prosecutors’ request of a punishment of seven to nine years. The move coincided with Trump’s declaration on Twitter early Tuesday that the government was treating Stone too harshly. The gulf between the prosecutors and their Justice Department superiors burst into public view

the week before Stone was to be sentenced for trying to sabotage a congressional investigation that had posed a threat to Trump. The prosecutors — one of whom resigned from the department — were said to be furious over the reversal of their sentencing request, filed in federal court late Monday. The Stone case was one of the most high-profile criminal

STONE CASE, 8A

What’s future of Gold Line after rating?

To receive federal funds, project needs higher FTA ranking

By Bob Shaw
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A federal agency has thrown funding for the Gold Line rapid-transit bus line into doubt. The Federal Transit Administration has ranked the project as “medium-low” — a setback for the \$461 million project connecting St. Paul and Woodbury. Supporters of the project assumed they’d get about \$207 million from the FTA, and the remainder of the money from Ramsey and Washington counties. But federally funded projects require a ranking of “medium” — one level higher than the Gold Line’s current ranking. The Metropolitan Council is not giving up, however. Officials believe

GOLD LINE, 4A